

I. Intro

- A. Luke 9:51,53 – Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem
 - 1. Mt, Mk, and Lk – Jesus traveled to Jerusalem 1x
 - 2. Jn – Jesus traveled to Jerusalem 4x [Jn 2:13;5:1;10:22;12:12]
 - 3. Jesus traveled multiple times to Jerusalem (for festivals)
 - 4. Luke wants your attention on the final time
- B. As Christ moves toward Jerusalem the story unfolds rapidly
 - 1. More and more people are included – from 12 guys in Galilee to all Israel
 - 2. And then, from Israel to the whole world
- C. As we read, watch how Luke sketches the story of kingdom growth
 - 1. From 12 to 72, from dark to light, from inner work to outward life

II. Text

A. Luke 10:1-20

- 1. Section centers on the 72 – sending, warning, return
 - a) Jesus sends out 72 (or 70) to expand the work of the 12 [Lk 9:1-6]
 - (1) *Instruction – fully rely on God as provider*
 - (2) *Instruction – pray for folks and preach good news*
 - (3) *Instruction – don't take rejection personal*
 - b) Urgency and warning for these cities – don't miss your visitation [MAP]
 - (1) Last time Jesus will be in the region, face set to Jerusalem
 - (2) *Hear the good news and believe it, you may not get another chance*
 - c) Return of the 72
 - (1) *Rejoice – kingdom has power to change lives and whoop darkness*
 - (2) *Rejoice – Satan was kicked from heaven and Jesus is here to finish the job*
 - (3) *Rejoice – Jesus has anointed his followers to help with the work*
- 2. Authority over serpents and scorpions isn't literal – symbolic
 - a) Remember the garden? – Serpents and scorpions are demonic
 - b) God's kingdom has authority over Satan and his scorpions
 - c) We aren't on the losing team, these evil spirits are subject to Christ

3. *Okay, but what does that mean?*
 - a) *Luke is showing an expanding kingdom – 12 to 72 – 72 to 3k – 3k to you*
 - b) *You have authority over darkness and a responsibility to spread light*
 - c) *Don't spend your days under enemy control, take authority in Jesus' name*
 - d) *Use your freedom to preach freedom to others – push back evil in all forms*
4. *But, most importantly, keep your eyes focused on what is most important*
 - a) *We are not the Ghostbusters, fixated on demons*
 - b) *We rejoice in light, heaven, the good news of Jesus – while we overcome evil*

B. Luke 10:21-24

1. Speaking of rejoicing, Jesus rejoices at the scene before him
 - a) Plans and purposes of God are expanding at light-speed
 - b) Hidden mysteries are now revealed to common everyday folks
2. *Christ is still rejoicing today*
 - a) *He sits at the right hand of the Father, fully accomplishing the Father's plans*
 - b) *Protecting his bride, the church, for 2k years*
 - c) *Plans have not stopped – gained speed and conquered more ground*
3. To illustrate this, Luke records two stories that drive the point home

C. Luke 10:25-37

1. A lawyer asks Jesus a question about eternal life
 - a) Settle on the 2 greatest commandments [Deut. 6:5]
 - b) Lawyer wants clarification on "neighbor"
 - c) To the lawyer – God is the God of the Jews and his neighbors are fellow Jews
2. To answer his question, Jesus shares a parable
 - a) A man travels to another city, he is robbed and beaten up
 - b) A Priest offers zero help and a Levite offers zero help
 - c) A Samaritan offers help and much more
 - d) Which of the three proved to be the neighbor?
3. *That last question is what we often miss in this parable*
 - a) *The parable isn't meant for you to cast yourself as the Samaritan*

- b) *The parable is meant to cast yourself as the half-dead Jew*
 - (1) *For the Jew, the Samaritan is the enemy*
 - (2) *The parable asks, can you recognize your enemy as a neighbor?*
 - (3) *If not, you might be left for dead – physically and spiritually*
- c) *Correctly see yourself, your neighbor, and the need*
- 4. *Luke records this story to capture an aspect of the Kingdom*
 - a) *Not merely an inner work, an outward life too*
 - b) *Not enough to know your God and know your neighbors*
 - c) *Christ compels us to action!*
 - d) *Christians once led the world in art, education, medicine, science, and morality*
- 5. *The inner work of gospel transformation produces a changed outer life too*

D. Luke 10:38-42

- 1. *Luke's second example of the expanding nature of the kingdom*
 - a) *The gospel changes our outward posture in the world*
 - b) *Rather than serving with the women, Mary sits at Jesus' feet to learn*
 - c) *Mary's posture upset Martha, but Jesus corrects Martha not Mary*
- 2. *Why? – because the inner work of Jesus produces measurable outward change*

III. Conclusion

- A. *Luke 10 gives us many perspectives with one central message*
 - 1. *The Kingdom of God is expanding*
 - a) *Expanding the amount of people (12-72, 72-3k, 3k-3b)*
 - b) *Expanding into enemy territories of darkness and conquering evil*
 - c) *Expanding from the inner work of the heart and mind to the outward life*
 - 2. *The Kingdom of God is expanding and consuming everything in its path*
 - 3. *Like a wildfire, it takes ground and consumes everything, leaving it visibly changed*
- B. *What is our takeaway from this central message?*
 - 1. *Consider the ways the Kingdom is expanding in your life*
 - 2. *Who needs to hear the gospel? What darkness needs exposing?*
 - 3. *What ways should the inner work of God begin revealing itself in your outer life?*